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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/560,538	12/13/2005	Kenji Iwano	ARGM-119US	6453
52473	7590	08/05/2008	EXAMINER	
RATNERPRESTIA P.O. BOX 980 VALLEY FORGE, PA 19482				ESTRADA, ANGEL R
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2831				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/560,538	IWANO ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Angel R. Estrada	2831	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 December 2005.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1,2 and 6 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 3-5 and 7 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1.) Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2.) Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3.) Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yajima (US 6,002,086).

Regarding claim 1, Yajima discloses an electronic equipment (see figure 1), comprising a double length case (see figure 1) having an overall length substantially twice as long as a predetermined standard length in a predetermined direction (see figure 1), in which said double length case includes a common case member (12,23) shorter in overall length in said predetermined direction than said standard length (see figure 2) and available for a part of a standard length case having in said predetermined direction an overall length identical to said standard length (see figure 1), and an additional case member (11,22,21) longer in overall length in said predetermined direction than said standard length case and disposed on a predetermined side of said common case member (12,23), said common case member (12,23) having a common side engaging portion (15) held in fitting engagement with said additional case member (see figure 1), and said additional case member (11,22,21) having an additional side engaging portion (32) held in fitting engagement with said common side engaging portion of said common case member (see figures 1 and 2).

Regarding claim 2, Yajima discloses the electronic equipment (see figure 1), in which said common side engaging portion (15) and said additional side engaging portion (32) are held in press-fit contact with each other in a direction different from said predetermined direction (see figures 1 and 2).

Regarding claim 6, Yajima discloses the electronic equipment (see figure 1), further comprising: a common side electronic part (column 3 lines 36-39) housed in said common case member (12,23); and an additional side electronic part (column 3 lines 33-36) housed in said additional case member (11,21,22), said additional case member (see figure 1) having an electromagnetic shield part (22) positioned between said common side electronic part and said additional side electronic part (see figure 1), and operative to shield one of said common side electronic part and said additional side electronic part from an electromagnetic wave radiated from the other of said common side electronic part and said additional side electronic part (see figure 1).

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 3-5 and 7 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The primary reasons for the indication of the allowability of claims 3-5 and 7 are:

Regarding claim 3, the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest in combination with the other claimed limitations the electronic equipment, further comprising: a front

panel disposed on the front side of said double length case; a connecting member for fixedly connecting said common case member and said additional case member to each other; a common side tightening member operable to tighten and fixedly connect said connecting member with said common case member; and an additional side tightening member operable to tighten and fixedly connect said connecting member with said additional case member, said connecting member being disposed on one or the other side in a direction in which said common case member and said front panel are arranged.

Regarding claims 4, 5 and 7, the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest in combination with the other claimed limitations the electronic equipment, further comprising: a common side electronic part housed in said common case member; an additional side electronic part housed in said additional case member to be independent from said additional case member; and a harness cable having said common side electronic part and said additional side electronic part connected to each other.

These limitations are found in claims 3-5 and 7, and are neither disclosed nor taught by the prior art of record, alone or in combination.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Daoud (US 6,157,715 and US 6,353,697), Koch et al (US 6,359,218), Crouse et al (US 6,321,925) and Iwata (US 6,430,054) disclose electronic equipment.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Angel R. Estrada at telephone number (571) 272-1973. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:30 -5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Diego Gutierrez can be reached on (571) 272-2245. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) OR 571-272-1000.

July 23, 2008

/Angel R. Estrada/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2831